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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 624
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Verties Sails,
Jr. of Southwest Tennessee Community College
on his outstanding career.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those athletes and coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent accomplishments, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable citizen is Coach Verties Sails, Jr. of Southwest Tennessee Community College; on February 16, 2002, he captured his 500th career victory as coach of the Saluqis; and

WHEREAS, the convincing 101-75 victory over Columbia State Community College in the Verties Sails Gymnasium marked the climax of the latest successful chapter in Coach Sails's accomplished career; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Woodstock High School, he completed a bachelor's degree at LeMoyne-Owen College in 1964; in 1968, he received his master's degree from Memphis State

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University, and he has shown his commitment to the immense value of education by completing an additional forty-five credit hours beyond his master's; and

WHEREAS, he began his career in 1964 with Memphis City Schools, in which position he earned the respect and admiration of his students, peers, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his service; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sails experienced tremendous success during his term as Head Coach as Melrose High School; in 1974, his squad completed the first and only undefeated State Championship season in Memphis school history; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, he took a position as an Assistant Coach at Memphis State University, thus making history as the first full-time black assistant coach at a major university in the South; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Coach Sails began his term at Southwest Tennessee Community College, then known as Shelby State Community College; under his guidance, the Saluqis have experienced unprecedented success and reached the highest national prominence; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sails's Saluqis have won more than seventy percent of their contests, won numerous league, state, and regional championships, and earned five berths in the National Tournament, advancing as far as the championship game; and

WHEREAS, Verties Sails, Jr. is known throughout the basketball community of our nation as a leader of the greatest ability; he has been selected as Coach of the Year ten times, chosen as the 1999 *The Commercial Appeal* Sportsman of the Year, and honored by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an invaluable ambassador for the game, he has shared his vast knowledge of sports as host of a radio show for more than two decades with three stations; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Coach Sails is a committed community servant and exemplary citizen; and

WHEREAS, he has shared his time and many talents as a member of the Board of Directors of the Special Olympics and the Dixie Boys Home; he served as a Judge of “Teenager of the Year” and Memphis in May; a 1982 graduate of Leadership Memphis, he was a member the Memphis Park Board and the Memphis Sports Authority; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, he was selected as one of President George Bush’s “Thousand Points of Light”; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Tennessee Community College officials have declared March 1, 2002, as “Verties Sails Day” in honor of his reaching the 500 win plateau; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Coach Verties Sails, Jr. has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his student athletes to reach their potential; he exemplifies the unquestioned character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Coach Verties Sails, Jr. of Southwest Tennessee Community College for his honorable and astute service to the young athletes of this State and join with his family, friends, players, and fans in celebrating his 500th career victory as Coach of the Saluqis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.